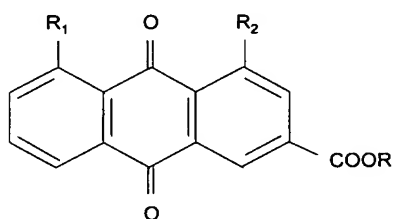


CLAIMS

1. Use of rhein and rhein derivatives in human or veterinary therapeutics for the treatment of an affection requiring an increase of the levels of the heme oxygenase enzyme.

2. Use according to claim 1, wherein rhein and the rhein derivative are represented by the following general formula (I):



in which R represents a hydrogen atom, or an alkyl group, or an alkaline or earth-alkaline metal atom, R₁ and R₂, identical or different, represent a hydroxy group or an acyloxy group of formula R'-COO- where R' is an alkyl group of 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

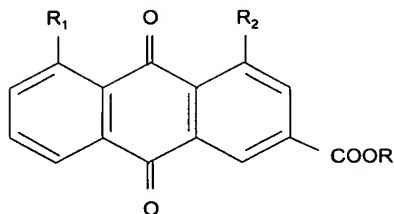
3. Use according to claim 2, wherein the derivative is rhein or diacerein.

4. Use according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the rhein derivative is administered at a dose of 25 to 500 mg per day.

5. Use according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the rhein derivative is under a form which can be administered per oral route.

6. Use of rhein and rhein derivatives for the manufacture of a medicinal product for the treatment of an affection requiring an increase of the levels of the heme oxygenase enzyme.

7. Use according to claim 6, wherein rhein and the rhein derivative are represented by the following general formula (I):



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10 in which R represents a hydrogen atom, or an alkyl group, or an alkaline or earth-alkaline metal atom, R_1 and R_2 , identical or different, represent a hydroxy group or an acyloxy group of formula $R'-COO-$ where R' is an alkyl group of 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

15 8. Use according to claim 7, wherein the derivative is rhein or diacerein.

9. Use according to any of claims 6 to 8, wherein the rhein derivative is administered at a dose of 25 to 500 mg per day.

20 10. Use according to any of claims 6 to 9, wherein the rhein derivative is under a form which can be administered per oral route.

11. Use according to claim 10, wherein the unitary dose is comprised between 25 mg and 50 mg.

25 12. Use according to any of claims 6 to 11, wherein the rhein derivative is associated with a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) or with a COX-2 inhibitor.

13. Use according to any of claims 6 to 12, wherein the treatment is intended to cure or prevent transplant
30 rejections.

14. Use according to any of claims 6 to 12, wherein the treatment is intended to prevent and inhibit the effects of stress on cells and tissues.